



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 18, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

Present: Mayor Pro-Tempore: Jahn Dyvik; Council: Deirdre Kvale, Mike Feldmann, and Gina Joyce

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Clerk Moeller; City Attorney Thames; Public Works Director Diercks

Absent: Mayor Charlie Miner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik indicated that the Slow Burn Brigade will be offering a 'Passport to Haunt' event at Fire Station 1 on October 29, 2022 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. He stated that the 'passports' for Trick or Treating at area businesses will be available at Gopher Ace in Long Lake beginning on October 21, 2022, and Trick or Treating would occur on October 29 prior to the gathering at Fire Station 1.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik suggested that an item be added to the agenda regarding approval of the public notice for the upcoming community Open House to discuss future fire service options.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of October 4, 2022 City Council Work Session Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes of October 4, 2022 City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-51 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2022-15 for Sled Dog Days at Birch's on the Lake to be held January 2, 7, 14, 20, 21, and 28 as well as February 4, 11, 18, 20, and 25, 2023; and to Authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit to Permit the Event
- E. Approve the Application for Exempt Permit for the Church of St. George to Conduct Gambling Activities Including Raffles During the Saturday, November 19, 2022 'Annual Holiday Boutique' Event, with the Raffle Drawing to Take Place on Sunday, November 20, 2022
- F. Authorize Pay Request #2 to GMH Asphalt Corporation in the Amount of \$303,956.17 for the 2022 Pavement Improvement Project

Council member Kvale pointed out that there is a gouge on Watertown Road that was a result of the Pavement Improvement Project, and questioned if Consent Agenda Item F represented final payment to the contractors. She explained that it appears as though they dropped the blade on the grader and it gouged the pavement.

City Administrator Weske replied that the payment for approval did not represent final payment, as there would still be some retainage. He requested Council member Kvale take a photo of the gouge and its location to send to him.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik asked how the overall Pavement Improvement Project turned out.

Weske advised that there are a few areas where there are some drainage issues that still need to be worked out. Overall, the timeline for completion of the project was a bit more delayed than he would have liked, but delays may have been due to the gas company.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Joyce, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

Wendy Lundsgaard, 1462 Hunter Drive, Wayzata – Ms. Lundsgaard introduced herself as an Orono School Board candidate. She shared some information related to her background, experience and reasons for running for a School Board position.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Public Hearing: Certification of Unpaid Delinquent City Utility Accounts and Services Invoices for Assessment/Collection

City Clerk Moeller explained that annually cities have the opportunity certify delinquent utility accounts for collection with property taxes. She noted that the revised list of delinquent accounts has decreased from the original list that received notifications and is down to about one-third of where it began because some have paid their account balances. She stated that the City will continue to work on collection efforts up until the time the delinquency assessments have to be certified to the County.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik questioned whether the current list proposed for assessment represented a typical number of delinquencies.

City Administrator Weske responded that he felt the number of delinquent accounts has been reduced overall and noted that he would attribute part of that improvement is due to the City having Finance/Utility Billing Officer Nowezki on staff, who can stay on top of communications.

Moeller added that last year, Finance/Utility Billing Officer Nowezki was able to achieve great success and the City did not end up having to certify any delinquent accounts. She mentioned that she had not received any rejections or notices of appeal on these accounts.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik opened the public hearing at 6:46 p.m. There being no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Council member Feldmann asked if the 4% interest rate for assessed balances was set outside of the City.

Moeller clarified that the City certifies the amounts due, and the rest follows Hennepin County's procedures, including setting of the interest rate and the administrative fee per account.

Council member Kvale inquired if the people who had contacted the City after they were notified had indicated why they had not paid their utility bills.

Moeller observed that more often than not, the delinquent accounts list is comprised of people who are frequently delinquent or already had a record of not paying bills in a timely manner.

A motion was made by Kvale, seconded by Joyce, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-52 for the certification and collection of delinquent 2022 water and sewer utility service charges, recycling program fees, storm water charges, legal pass through and unpaid general service charges. Ayes: all.

Tech Levy Update – Presentation by Mike Bash, Orono School Board

Mike Bash introduced himself and shared that he had been a member of the Orono School Board for 19 years, and had previously served as a former Council member and Mayor of Long Lake. He introduced Orono Schools Superintendent Dr. Kristine Flesher who has been in her position for about 16 months, but has been employed by the School District for 29 years. They showed a brief video that highlighted information about the Orono School District's use of technology and the proposed request for renewal of their expiring technology levy.

Mr. Bash presented details about the technology levy renewal request that they are hoping will garner voter approval during the upcoming election. He recalled that three years ago they had a question on the ballot asking voters to raise their taxes in order to pay for what the School District is actually spending on technology, and that request was voted down. He stated that they also came back two years ago and requested voters consider a lower tax increase, but they felt it may have been lost amidst the backdrop of having an election during the pandemic. The current proposal would not request a tax levy increase and would simply be a renewal of the expiring levy.

Dr. Flesher gave an overview of the kinds of services that would be possible if the tech levy is approved for renewal, particularly in the areas of classroom support, reliable access, and safety/security.

Council member Kvale indicated that Mr. Bash had stated that the School District has spent \$1.8 million on technology annually in the past, though their technology levy request is for \$1.2 million. She asked how the School District makes up the difference between those two amounts.

Dr. Flesher responded that they have been using General Fund dollars.

Council member Kvale observed that the request is to renew the levy for another 10 years, and asked if the School District had a projected plan on how they would be spending the money and what their focus would be.

Dr. Flesher replied that most everything that exists in technology is on replacement cycles and gave examples of some of their long-range plans for replacements and improvements.

Mr. Bash added that the School District has about 250-300 employees and every one of them has a computer in front of them. Also, the School District provides a technology device for every student by either allowing them to bring their own or offering the option to check out a device.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik noted that he could not think of any company that would be able to have the same budget 10 years ago as it would have right now. He reflected that technology use has expanded in ways that no one could have known 20 years ago.

Mr. Bash recalled that 20 years ago schools had computer labs, which were rooms with 25 desktop computers for the students to use.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik noted that he felt approving renewal of the tech levy is a “no brainer” from his perspective, and shared that he has four kids in the School District.

Mr. Bash encouraged residents to vote on November 8, 2022 and to approve the Orono School District’s proposed technology levy.

Updates and Discussion Regarding Fire Department Matters

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik reported that the City had sent a letter responding to correspondence received from Orono, who had given Long Lake a deadline of October 15, 2022 to respond to their offer for takeover of the Long Lake Fire Department. He mentioned that the letter was available for residents to view on the City’s website. He advised that the City is planning to hold an Open House to obtain community feedback on November 17, 2022 and to consider different options and scenarios moving forward with regard to the future of fire services. He recalled that he made a presentation at the last City Council meeting and it had been brought to his attention that something he said was taken offensively by some of the firefighters when he talked about the capital improvement plan that he had described as notional and ‘pie in the sky’, and stated that apparently some of the firefighters took that to mean that he did not think that it was important to him that they be equipped properly. He clarified that was not true, and the point he had been trying to make was that the notional exercise to show where the CIP ought to be compared to where it actually is was just to show the gap, and he had thought the plan in reviewing the notional CIP was to find a way to close the gap. He would still say that the CIP was not achievable because it showed purchases of \$4.3 million in equipment over the next two years. He reiterated that Fire Chief Van Eyll had been tasked by Orono Council member Seals to prepare a conceptual CIP with the direction to think of it as though money was no object. Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik commented that he thought the exercise was a good idea at the time, but he had not thought that it would be taken to be used or presented as an actual CIP that was considered achievable. He noted that a few weeks ago, he had asked Van Eyll what a CIP would look like that would be between the current CIP versus the notional CIP, and gave examples of some of the expenses or replacements that had been pushed out a few years. He stated that he had also included Van Eyll’s middle ground solution within his presentation at the last meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik also highlighted the possibility that had recently been explored for the purchase of a used ladder truck from the City of Coon Rapids. He noted that Orono had recently voted to put together a purchase agreement to buy the used ladder truck on their own, and asked if the Council felt that purchase should be made through the Long Lake Fire Department contract.

Fire Chief Van Eyll noted that the opportunity to purchase this type of used equipment is becoming a rarity because of the longer lead times for acquisition of new apparatus. The LLFD had been able to take a look at the Coon Rapids ladder truck and determined that it is actually would be a very good deal for the price.

Council and staff discussed the need for a new ladder truck in the area, the process of purchasing the truck through the existing fire services contract, costs for ladder trucks, lifespan of ladder trucks, and turnaround time for new ladder trucks.

Council member Feldmann commented that, to him, it would be a “no brainer” that the used ladder truck from Coon Rapids should be pursued through the existing contract. He noted that Long Lake cannot tell Orono what they can and cannot do, but added that when he had watched their Council meeting, he felt the information discussed was a bit misrepresented and reiterated that he felt the vehicle should be purchased within the contract terms.

Council member Joyce voiced her agreement.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik asked if the Council could approve something like this without it being a specific item on their agenda.

Weske advised against doing so and explained that because of the dollar amount involved, the City should see all the quotes and paperwork included in a packet for formal consideration.

Van Eyll added that a review of the vehicle acquisition package was supposed to happen at the Fire Advisory Board meeting at the end of the month.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik suggested that the vehicle be discussed as planned at the next Fire Advisory Board meeting, and then the information could be brought back to the Council, with the hope that the ladder truck has not been sold before then.

Weske pointed out that the City will need to do its due diligence in further review even though this particular truck seems to be a good deal.

Council member Feldmann pointed out that the contract says that the Fire Advisory Board leads this type of purchase process and reports back to the cities with recommended action. He reiterated that Long Lake cannot control what Orono does, but can control what Long Lake does and can choose to do the right thing.

Van Eyll noted that the next Fire Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2022.

Planning for Future Fire Service Community Open House Event

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik reiterated that the City of Long Lake is planning to hold a community Open House event on November 17, 2022 to present information and solicit input from residents about the future of fire services. He reported that Mayor Miner had put together a draft of slides that will be presented at the Open House with the goal of educating residents on the background and various options moving forward. He asked if there would also be a survey in addition to this community Open House meeting.

Moeller replied that at this time she did not think there were plans to conduct a survey in addition to the Open House and outlined some of the potential issues in putting together a survey. She explained that the thought process had been that the Open House would be the best solution to facilitate gathering community input from interested individuals.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik stressed that he just wanted there to be a good turnout for the Open House event.

Moeller explained that as soon as the Council determines the meeting location, she can begin the work of getting the notice out to ensure that people know about the Open House. She stated that the question before the Council is whether they want to hold the Open House at Fire Station 1 or somewhere that may have larger parking facilities. She indicated that there may be an option to use the Fellowship Hall room at Calvin Presbyterian Church. She had spoken to Church representatives, and on Thursday, she would be finding out the outcome of the Church Board's discussion about allowing the City's use of their facility for the Open House. They also indicated they may be willing to waive their usual fee for use of the room due to the community nature of the event.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik read aloud the proposed public notice announcement.

Moeller expressed her appreciation to Council member Joyce for drafting the language for the notice.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the public notice language for the Future Fire Services Open House as presented, with direction to staff to use the Calvin Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall as the first choice in location, and with the backup location to be Fire Station 1 if the first location is not available. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on Carp Harvests - Council member Joyce reported that the final carp amount pulled from the lake for 2021 was 1,107, and for 2022 was 1,133. The Long Lake Waters Association (LLWA) believes that another approximately 220 carp need to be removed in order to achieve the original goal of a manageable number. Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik questioned whether the LLWA plans to pursue another carp removal attempt in the spring. Council member Joyce believed that the idea has been mentioned but there has not been a formal suggestion or proposal made yet.

Holiday Tree Lighting Event – Council member Joyce informed Council that the Long Lake Park Board is planning to hold the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 2, 2022 at Holbrook Park. Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik noted a suggestion had been submitted to Council members via email that the City use the old BP site as sort of a town center that could feature a big Christmas tree seasonally.

Absence From Next Meeting – Council member Joyce indicated that she will be unable to attend the November 1, 2022 Council meeting.

Fire Department Events and Updates - Van Eyll shared information about upcoming events including the October 29, 2022 Slow Burn Brigade 'Passport to Haunt' event that Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik had highlighted at the beginning of the meeting; and a Fire Relief Association breakfast for 'Fishing for Life' with the Musky Mayhem group to be held on October 26, 2022 at Fire Station 1. He mentioned that there is a new firefighter class that just started last week that currently has three members and he is hopeful that there will be a fourth individual joining them shortly. Lastly, he indicated that the Slow Burn Brigade is planning to host their annual toy and food drive event again on December 3, 2022.

Daniels Street Closure - Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik advised that Daniels Street will be intermittently closed over the next week because of utility work related to the development project near City Hall.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Pro-Tempore Dyvik adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator